GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3061
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2000
AREA UNDER TEA PLANTATION
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under tea plantation in each State at present;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to increase areas under tea plantation in the country particularly in Southern States during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the new areas identified for the purpose;

(d) the private sector companies and public sector which are participating in tea plantation; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of tea growers in those States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)
(a) : The State wise estimated area under tea plantation in India for the year 1999 are as follows:

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STATE Area (in hectares)
Assam 231,940
West Bengal 103,150
Tripura 6,000
Bihar 76
Uttar Pradesh 1,068
Himachal Pradesh 2,325
Manipur 350
Sikkim 173
Arunachal Pradesh 2,100
Nagaland 480
Orissa 219
Meghalaya 120
Tamil Nadu 50,875
Kerala 36,877
Karnataka 2,104
Total 437857

(b) and (c) : Tea Board/Government have plans to bring 40,000 hectares of land under tea cultivation in the traditional tea growing areas and 20,000 hectares in the non-traditional areas during the Ninth five year plan period. Certain areas in Idduki & Wynaad districts of Kerala, Kodaikanal and Annamlais in Tamil Nadu and Kodagu Dist. in Karnataka have been identified as suitable for tea cultivation by the Tea Board.

(d) : There are 6 public sector companies and around 554 companies in the private sector who own tea gardens in India. The public sector companies own 49 tea gardens and the private sector own 1,569 tea gardens.

(e) : The tea growers in South India have been facing problem of un-remunerative price realisationat the auctions. In order to provide relief to the small growers of tea, Government/Tea Board has taken various steps which include implementation of a scheme through the Tea Board with effect from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy is provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg., implementation of a Quality Upgradation Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea, increase in basic customs duty on tea from 15% to 35%, imposition of ban on sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs).